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Al-Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi stressed that the current state of affairs can no longer be ignored and that effective measures must be taken. He affirmed that he has demanded an opposition leaders sit-in to protest against the government. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Arab Ties, Support for IRA

LD131403 London ITV Television Network in English
1800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Report by Trevor MacDonald on the "Channel 4 News" program—intercepted in progress; all Al-Qadhdhafi statements in English and as heard]

[Excerpt] [MacDonald, over video of ceremonial demolition of Libyan border post] With one simple gesture Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had struck what he believes to be a decisive blow for the cause of Arab unity. The two Tunisian ministers who attended the demolition ceremony found its significance much more prosaic. Tunisia needs to be able to send more workers into Libya, a richer country with a less skilled work force. But it has also told the Tunisians that their own idiosyncratic neighbor has embarked on a policy of reconciliation.

The day after he went to the Tunisian border, I met Col al-Qadhdhafi at a tent on the grounds of his house in Tripoli. He told me that the borders between Arab countries had been drawn by Africa's colonial masters, but that in independence those divisions should cease; an Arab land should be one again.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Arab land is one for all Arabs. Colonization made these borders to divide our one land. Now we are independent; we have to get rid of this fix of the colonization. What I...It is what I did yesterday.

[MacDonald] What about breaking down other borders? Are you hoping that you will break down borders with other Arab countries?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We will try....[laughing] We will try.

[MacDonald] It's on the subject of the Middle East that Col al-Qadhdhafi is most forthright. He said the Palestinians will be freed of Israeli occupation, not by diplomacy, but by force because, he argues, Israel is supported by the powers of imperialism.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Imperialism are behind them. It is not easy for all these aggressive parties to leave Palestine for some people. It is not easy, unless by force.

[MacDonald] But what about the possibility of a diplomatic solution? The Americans, for example. The American secretary of state, George Shultz, is going round trying to get a diplomatic solution. Don't you have any regard for that kind of possibility at all?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, no. We don't recognize any American role because America is not a neutral country. America is in the side...pro-Israelis completely and America in this case is our enemy.

[MacDonald] What about your support for the IRA—the Irish Republican Army?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We believe the cause of Ireland is a just cause, and we support this just cause because we believe Ireland is Ireland and Britain is Britain, and the existence of Britain in the north of Ireland is sense of colonization. And this...we will fight to get rid of this colonization, which is just fight and we support it.

[MacDonald] But does that mean, leader Al-Qadhdhafi, does that mean supporting people who place bombs and who kill and maim innocent people?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are not responsible about this...means. We support the cause.

[MacDonald] You don't give them weapons and money?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We support the cause because it is just one, but we are not responsible and involved in any act that is particularly that they do. It is their responsibility.

[MacDonald] Col al-Qadhdhafi believes that better relations with the United States are possible, but not under President Reagan, who he describes as foolish. I asked him when he expected Libya's relations with America to improve.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Not now. I expect it after Reagan. Any new American president will not follow this foolish man, Reagan. He will be reasonable I think.

[MacDonald] What about relations with Britain? Do you think that there's a chance of improving Libya's relations with Britain?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, because Britain is like America, and Britain is following America. I don't think that Britain is an independent country during Thatcher's regime. We consider that Britain is a colony for America.

[MacDonald] This week Libyans mark the second anniversary of the American attempt to destroy Col al-Qadhdhafi's command center in Tripoli. The abortive bombing raid has made the Colonel's house Libya's most powerful propaganda weapon. All the foreigners visiting the country are taken to see what Col al-Qadhdhafi calls real evidence of the language of terrorism. Two years on, Col al-Qadhdhafi is no longer talking of one single Arab empire, economically powerful and militarily invincible, but he's beginning at least to repair his relations with his neighbors. Trevor MacDonald, ITN, Libya. [passage omitted]

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Delegations Arrive for Terrorism Seminar
LD120547 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Delegations participating in the works of the international scientific seminar to clarify the "concept of terrorism" started arriving in Tripoli.

Amongst the delegations that arrived so far are the Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian and the Italians.

The seminar, organised by the democratic socialists of the Mediterranean region, will start on the 13th and finish on the 15th of this month.

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends Opening
LD132013 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT
13 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution attended this evening the opening session of the international scientific seminar to define the concept of terrorism and its forms, called for by the permanent secretariat of the progressive socialist organisation for the Mediterranean sea basin region and being held in the city of Tripoli, under the title: "International Terrorism: The Motives and Dimensions—An Attempt To Find a Concept."

It is being organised to mark the 2d anniversary of the confrontation by the Libyan Arab people to the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression and to implement the recommendations of the first meeting of the university dons of the Mediterranean sea basin states.

Somali Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks
LD110943 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 0115 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him arrived yesterday evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the beginning of his statement to JANA, the Somali foreign affairs minister conveyed President Mohamed Siad Barre's greetings to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people. The Somali minister of foreign affairs said in the course of his statement:

I will take this opportunity to hold talks pertaining to the bolstering and developing of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary
LD111510 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met this morning with Brother Mohamed 'Ali Hamud, minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard], in the Republic of Somalia, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Release of Former Ministers 'Confirmed'
PM131509 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
1 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mauritanian Sources Confirm Release of Three Officials"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Mauritanian sources have confirmed reports of the release of a number of detainees including three prominent individuals detained approximately 5 months ago on a charge of embezzling public funds and using state power for personal gain.

The Mauritanian sources informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that among those freed were former Finance Minister Muhamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Fisheries Minister Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallah, and Central Bank Governor Jank Bufarda [name as transliterated].

Moreover, they pointed out that the decision to release them has not been officially announced, but they denied some reports which spoke about the involvement of those freed in an attempt to overthrow the ruling regime in Mauritania.

Leader Receives USSR Ambassador 12 Apr
LD122317 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
0230 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] This morning, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN, received his excellency the Soviet ambassador to Nouakchott, Leonid Komogorov.

Sudan

Parliament Approves Political Program 12 Apr.
JN131159 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT
13 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (SUNA)—The Constituent Assembly yesterday passed a motion supporting the political program presented by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The vote was 229 in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstention.